Program of the working visit to Switzerland of the delegation of the

Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
Group on Cooperation with the Federal Assembly of Switzerland

headed by the Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation,
Head of the Group on Cooperation with the Federal Assembly of Switzerland Mr. Yury Vorobiev

Zurich-Bern-Fribourg, 17th-18th of June 2015

Participants:

Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation:

Mr. Yury Vorobiev, Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation, Head of the Group on Cooperation with the Federal Assembly of Switzerland;

Mr. Vladimir Dzhabarov, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation Committee on Foreign Affairs;

Mr. Stepan Kirichuk, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation Committee on the Federal Structure, Regional Policies, Local Self-Governance and Affairs of the North;

Mrs. Liudmila Bokova, Deputy Chairperson Council of the Federation Committee on Constitutional Legislation and State-building. The delegation will be accompanied by

Mr. Vladimir Lozbinev, Head of the Cabinet of the Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation Y.L.Vorobiev,

Mrs. Olesya Podolina, Advisor of the Bilateral Inter-parliamentary Cooperation Division of the International Relations Department.

Ms. Anna Balashova, Interpreter.

Embassy of the Russian Federation to Switzerland:

H.E. Alexander V. Golovin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Switzerland

Mr. Maxim Turilov, First Secretary of the Embassy

Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation:

SR Filippo Lombardi and NR Jean-François Steiert, Co-chair of the Group of friendship Switzerland-Russia,

SR Géraldine Savary and NR Jean-François Rime, members of the Group of Friendship

Ms. Alla Ramilova, Secretary of the Group of friendship Switzerland-Russia.

Mr. Cedric Stucky, Foreign affairs advisor of the Swiss Parliament

Mr. Raphaël Wirth, DEACO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
17 June, Wednesday

12.35  Arrival of the Delegation, Zurich Airport, flight SU-2390 from Moscow
       Transfer to Bern, to the Hotel Bellevue

14.30  Arrival to Bern, check-in at the Hotel Bellevue, welcome drink

15.45  Departure to the Erlacher Hof, Junkerngasse 47, Bern

16.00  Welcome by the Chancellor of the city of Bern, Jürg Wichtermann in the Erlacher Hof
       Short guided tour in the old city of Bern

18.30  Return to Hotel Bellevue

19.45  Transfer to the Embassy of the Russian Federation

20.00  Official Dinner on behalf of the Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Switzerland
       H.E Alexander Golovin (Russian Delegation, Lombardi, Steiert, Rime, Savary, Ramilova)

18 June, Thursday

08.00  Breakfast at the Hotel Bellevue

08.50  Departure from the Hotel Bellevue by walk to the Federal Palace

09.00  Meeting with the President of the Council of States, H.E. SR Claude Hêche

09.30  Guided visit to the Federal Palace, official greetings at the balcony of both Chambers

10.30  Courtesy visit to the Secretary of State, H.E. Yves Rossier, Foreign Affairs Department

11.30  Short press meeting (“point de presse”) in the Federal Palace, meeting room Nr. 2

12.00  Lunch at the Hotel Bellevue, offered by the Friendship Group Switzerland-Russia

13.00  Transfer to Fribourg (luggage in the cars)

13.30  Seminar on Federalism, at Federalism Institute of the University of Fribourg, Avenue du Midi 1,
       (see attached program for details)

17.45  Short guided tour to the old city of Fribourg

18.15  Meeting with the Chancellor of the Canton of Fribourg, Mrs. Danielle Gagnaux-Morel
       and the Secretary of the Cantonal Parlament, Mrs. Mireille Hayoz, farewell cocktail offered by
       the Canton of Fribourg in the City Hall (Place de l’Hôtel de Ville 3, Fribourg)

19.30  Transfer to Zurich Airport

22.35  Departure to Moscow, flight SU 2393
Seminar Program

**Federalism and decentralization, model solutions for modern States?**

In cooperation with the Institute of Federalism, University of Fribourg  
(simultaneous translation Russian-German will be provided)

**General political introduction, objectives of the seminar and the ongoing discussion on federalism**  
SR Filippo Lombardi, H.E. Yuri Vorobiev

**The Swiss federal model: State institutions, languages and religions**  
Prof. Eva Maria Belser, Institute of federalism

Discussion and coffee break

**The Russian federal model**  
MP Stepan Kirichuk, Council of the Russian Federation

**Swiss federalism: the financial implications**  
Prof. Peter Hänni, director of the Institute of Federalism

**General discussion: federalism and decentralization as possible solutions for multicultural modern States**

**Conclusions of the seminar**  
H.E. Yuri Vorobiev, SR Filippo Lombardi

**Official greetings from the Government of the Canton of Fribourg and closing of the seminar**  
Mrs. Marie Garnier, vice-president of the State Council of the Canton of Fribourg